

Handwriting Made Simple

A Photocopiable Activity Book by Peter Bell

INTRODUCTION

By 11, handwriting should be "fluent, joined-up and legible". National Curriculum Orders.

Handwriting Made simple is a photocopiable activity book which teaches a very simple fully cursive style of handwriting where all lower case letters join. This negates the need for pupils to be constantly making decisions about when or when not to join letters. The book contains detailed teacher's notes, 29 Exercises for Upper Key Stage 1 pupils, 29 Exercises for Lower Key Stage 2 pupils, upper and lower case letter shapes, common names, simple poems and an A3 photocopiable classroom wall chart. The book can be used with mixed groups of Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils and is also useful for work with Special Needs children as many basic sight words are included.

Topical Resources publishes a range of Educational Materials for use in Primary Schools and Pre-School Nurseries and Playgroups.

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Notes for Teachers

The teacher's notes describe how each letter shape is to be constructed. The book is split into two sections with exercises aimed at upper Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2. The exercises can be taught to mixed aged group classes, as the majority start off in a similar way, with work for older children becoming longer and more complex. The first four exercises in each section are deliberately very simple and repetitive with no capital letters. It is essential that pupils start in the correct place and learn to form these shapes properly. Teachers should talk about full size or half size letter shapes and stress the importance of working to the guidelines provided. The fifth exercise provides the missing upper case letter shapes to go with the lower case letters previously taught. After this, upper case letters are taught towards the end of each lower case letter exercise. On the photocopied sheet pupils should write over the solid lines, then the dotted lines and finally on their own. Ideally, each letter shape should be demonstrated on a board as it is explained. When a line of each letter shape is completed, pupils should be encouraged to look back and see if all the letters they have formed look the same. The letter shapes are joined with a "joining line" from the end of the first letter shape to the beginning of the next. When constructing words, pencils/pens should not leave the paper from starting the first letter shape to finishing the last. N.B. No capital letters join onto lower case letters. All capital letters are full size.

c - Lower case "c" is a half size letter. Many other letter are built upon this basic shape. "Start half way between the dotted line and the baseline. Curve up over the top and stop making sure you touch the dotted line on the way. Go back the way you came, curve down, touch the baseline and then up again."

a - Lower case "a" is a half size letter. "Start half way between the dotted line and the baseline. Curve up over the top and stop making sure you touch the dotted line on the way. Go back the way you came, curve down, touch the baseline and then up again in a straight line until the dotted line is reached again. Go back down until you touch the baseline, and then flick off at the end."

d - Lower case "d" is a full size letter. "Start half way between the dotted line and the baseline.

Curve up over the top and stop making sure you touch the dotted line on the way. Go back the way you came, curve down, touch the baseline and then up again in a straight line until the upper baseline line is reached. Go back down until you touch the baseline, and then flick off at the end."

o- Lower case "o" is a half size letter. "Start just below the dotted line. Curve up over the top and stop, making sure you touch the dotted line on the way. Go back the way you came, curve down, touch the baseline and then up again creating a mirror image of the line down. Touch at the top and curve off to the right."

C A D O - C starts just below the top line, curves round to the left in a symmetrical shape and ends up just above the baseline. A is constructed from three straight lines. D is a straight line down, lift off, return to the top and draw in the curve. O is a continuation of the C shape.

Gg - This is a continuation of the letter "a" shape. "Start half way between the dotted line and the baseline. Curve up over the top and stop making sure you touch the dotted line on the way. Go back the way you came, curve down, touch the baseline and then up again in a straight line until the dotted line is reached again. Go back down until you pass through the baseline. Curve left just before touching the dotted line and finally cross the vertical line just where it touches the baseline." Upper case "G" is similar in shape to C but the bottom curve is continued to the dotted line followed by straight lines in, out and down.

Ss - Lower case s is a half size letter. "Start just below the dotted line, curve up, over the top and stop, making sure you touch the dotted line on the way. Go back the way you came, curve left, cross the centre and curve right. When finished, the shape should look like an incomplete figure 8 with top and bottom being the same size." Upper case "S" is similar to the lower case shape only drawn as a full height letter without a joining line.

Ii - Lower case i is a half size letter. "Start just below the dotted line. Slope up and stop at the dots. Stroke vertically down to the baseline and stroke off. Finally put the dot in place." Pupils should be taught when writing words to place the dot when the whole word is completed and not



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Name _____

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join join

jug jug

juggle juggle

juggled juggled

judge judge

judging judging

justice justice

jaguar jaguar

J J J J J

Jack and Jill fell.

Jo joins the jugglers.

Judge John juggled the jar of jam.